

HAS MESSAGE FEVER

Strictures on President for Writing to Congress.

DOINGS AT GREAT CAPITAL

Things and People of Interest as They Pass to and Fro in the Lighthouse of National Publicity—Congress and Immense Tasks.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28.—The short session of the Fifty-ninth of Congress, or at least, the first half of the short session, will go down in history as one in which the Representatives and Senators fought in a blinding storm of messages from the White House. Probably never before in the same space of time has a Chief Executive pointed to the law-makers the manner in which he wished the legislative mills to grind. However, President Roosevelt's message habit is cured, according to all reports. He has come in for such an amount of adverse criticism because of the activity of his pen that he is said to be decidedly disgruntled, and that when Congress reconvenes there will be as great a dearth of Presidential pronouncements as there was a plentiful before. The President realizes that a too free use of the Presidential message to call to the attention of Congress and the country important legislation, depreciates the value of his official utterances. This realization, as well as his resentment of the criticism, has prompted him practically to put a stop to this form of admonition. The President is smarting under the criticism aimed at him, for some of his sharpest critics are the very men who have been most urgent that he indite messages on the subjects in which they are most interested. However that may be, it is probable that the letter writing of the present Congress is at an end.

If a bill introduced this week by Senator Burkett becomes law, the United States mails will be open for the free transportation of all reading matter for the use of the blind. The Nebraska Senator's measure is as poetical as a Senate bill can be made. It touches tenderly upon the inability of the blind to see the works of Nature and of art, and dwells sympathetically upon the many hours they

are obliged to spend in idleness and darkness. The bill offers as a reason for thus giving free carriage through the mails to reading matter for the blind, that the cost of the embossed matter is many times the cost of ink-printed or written manuscript, that they are heavier and require a greater outlay for postage when mailed, and for this reason the blind, a great majority of whom are not in affluent circumstances, are unable to exchange these works as they might if the postal regulations were waived. The Senate is not the hard-hearted, corporation-plagued body that the "muck-rakers" would have the country believe.

Colonel William F. Cody, or "Buffalo Bill," as he is known to the world at large, is here planning for a big bear hunt in Wyoming next fall, and it is said that the President practically has promised to accompany him. Col. Cody's description of the herds of deer and the multiplicity of bears and mountain lions in the Big Heart and Shoshone Mountains, has excited the Presidential hunting fever, and it is not unlikely that Mr. Roosevelt will slip away from the cares of state for a week or so next autumn and disappear into the fastnesses of the Rocky Mountains.

Congress will gather again on January 3, for two months of fast work. The ways have been greased with the launching of the big appropriation bills. The first of these to be reported after the recess will be the fortification measure, which practically is ready for the recommendation of the House. After that will come the District bill, the Sundry bill and the Pension bill. The appropriation bills for the army and the navy likely will be offered about the middle of the month, and the latter is expected to evoke the usual debate between the advocates and opponents of a greater navy. The entire plan is to have the legislative slate clean as early as possible, to permit of a full consideration of the Rivers and Harbors bill. It is expected to carry between fifty and sixty million dollars. This bill is regarded as the most important of all the appropriation bills, as it is the first intimation in years that the government has awakened to the necessity for a vigorous campaign in the development of the waterways of the country. The convention of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress, held here early in December opened the eyes of Congress to the necessity for making adequate appropriations for the needs of commerce. The conviction that these appropriations should be made was strengthened by the congestion of traffic in all sections of the country. In the South the cotton crop is tied up, in the Northwest towns and cities are suffering for the lack of coal, and

the financial condition of the West is shaken because the farmers are unable to move their great crops to market through the inability of the railroads to furnish cars. Had the government in the past made provisions for the development of the country's natural resources, the rivers of the interior could have transported practically all this heavy freight and the railroad congestion would never have resulted. It is the temper of the present Congress that the United States should make amends for its inactivity of the past by providing for a wide-awake crusade in the future.

A pretty fight is being waged in the United States Supreme Court between Kansas and Colorado. The case grows out of the use of the waters of the Arkansas River, and the Sunflower State claims that Colorado has appropriated water in the last fifteen years to the value of not less than \$75,000,000. The Kansas attorneys claim on behalf of their State that Colorado is taking practically all of the water for irrigation purposes, and they demand a fair division be made. On the other hand, Colorado's attorneys declare emphatically that there is enough water for all, and deny that their drain on the river has worked to the disadvantage of their sister State. A formidable array of legal talent is arraigned on both sides of the question, and from all appearances the Supreme Court has a very hard nut to crack.

An event eagerly looked forward to when Congress reconvenes, is the advent of the Honorable Jefferson Davis, new Senator from Arkansas. Senator Davis expects to leap into the Senatorial arena with a loud roar, seize the national government by the tail and whirl it savagely around his head. He expects to cure all business ills by virtue of certain legislative nostrums with which he has experimented while governor of Arkansas. It is scarcely likely that he will exert much influence along this line, however, for his own state is writhing under the drastic laws that he compelled. Already he has driven large fire-insurance companies out of the State, and the International Harvester Company, employing a small army of men in Arkansas, has been compelled to close up its affairs there because of unjust and absolutely impracticable laws. Senator Davis likely will not be in very good odor with the Administration, either. President Roosevelt, in his message to Congress dwelt at length on the danger of demagogic attacks on the business interests of the country, and though he mentioned no names, it is very probable that he had the fire-eating Arkansan in mind. Both the House and the Senate are beginning to understand that the "muck-raking" era has started a dangerous spirit of hostility to all corporations, and that unless it is checked the industries of the United States will be seriously affected. For this reason it is not likely that Senator Davis will create such a furore as some persons have been led to believe.

Members of the Pacific Coast delegation in Congress will not be idle during the recess of Congress. A party of them representing the States of Washington, Oregon, California, Utah, and Idaho, held a conference this week to determine upon a policy regarding legislation pertaining to the Chinese and Japanese. In addition, several of the members have left for Panama where they will investigate conditions and will spend about five days along the route of the Canal. The chief object will be to determine just what advantages will accrue commercially to the Pacific slope when the Canal is opened and also to learn with as much certainty as possible about what time the big ditch will be finished, so as to enable preparations to be made to take care of the increased trade. Still another feature that will be looked into by the committee going to the Isthmus will be the labor situation. It has been said that important changes will result from the digging of the ditch. This the committee will see for itself, for there has been a great outcry on the Pacific slope against the employment of Chinese. The committee will return shortly after the reconvening of Congress on January 3rd.

Following close on the President's message urging citizenship for Porto Rico, comes the report of the Department of Commerce and Labor showing the remarkable growth in commerce between the United States and that island. The figures just announced show that the trade in the calendar year of 1906 will exceed \$40,000,000, as against less than \$4,000,000 in 1897, the year before annexation. Not alone has the trade of Porto Rico with the United States increased enormously, but it also shows a large increase internally, and with other foreign countries. Governor Beekman Winthrop

who is here looking after the interests of the island before Congress, is highly pleased that this report should have followed so closely on the President's plea for more liberal political conditions for the Porto Ricans. Gov. Winthrop is spending the Christmas holidays at Hot Springs, Ark., where he is taking the baths. A large number of congressmen are stopping at the Homestead Hotel there and Porto Rico's chief executive is pursuing his missionary work diligently during the recess. It is not unlikely that a favorable action will be taken with regard to the island's interests between January 3 and the first of March.

MANIAC RUNS YARD.

Pennsylvania Railroad Under Brief and Dangerous Domination.

CHICAGO, Dec. 28.—For six hours yesterday a maniac ran the switch yards at Cavanaugh, Ind., a junction point near Hammond, where the Lake Shore tracks cross those of the Elgin Joliet & Eastern Railroad. He gained possession of the tower-house, flagged every passenger and freight train that passed, and with a coupling-pin put to flight every train crew that made a protest. In four hours he discharged 24 brakemen and six conductors, and to fill the vacancies hired a "weary Willie" that showed up.

The glad news spread immediately to the watering tanks, where trampdom foregathered, and the tracks were black with hobos on their way to easy jobs, when a special train filled with deputy sheriffs arrived from Hammond and drove the interloper from possession. He is supposed from papers in his pocket, to be A. C. Murphy, 2960 Seventy-ninth Street, Chicago.

The maniac appeared on the scene in the morning, just as the section hands were starting off on the hand-cars. He mounted the steps of the tower, and confronted W. J. Bate, operator of the switches.

"I'm the new yardmaster," he said. "Glad to meet you," replied Bate busy with his levers.

"I don't like your red hair," stated the new comer belligerently.

"It's better than a red nose," retorted Bate with a laugh.

"You're too fresh, you're fired. Go to the station and get your envelope!" shouted the new "yardmaster."

"No red headed man can work for me." The operator left hurriedly influenced by the sight of a coupling pin, which his critic flourished.

As soon as the coast was clear, the maniac amused himself by jerking at every lever in sight, throwing the interlocking switches and bringing all trains to a standstill. Several train crews tried to arrest him, but he fought them off.

After discharging a number of brakemen, he turned to a hobo who stood near with the remark:

"I appoint you president of this road. Go out and get some more of the boys and I'll give them easy jobs."

After several hours delay, C. E. Salisbury, agent at Hammond, wired in to headquarters at Chicago, and orders were given for a special train. It took a squad of a dozen brakemen and deputy sheriffs to make the arrest, several being used up in the encounter with the crazy man and the coupling pin. He was finally overpowered and taken to jail in Hammond.

OUTWITS THE SURGEON.

A complication of female troubles with catarrh of the stomach and bowels, had reduced Mrs. Thos. S. Austin, of Leavenworth, Indiana, to such a deplorable condition, that her doctor advised an operation; but her husband fearing fatal results, postponed this to try Electric Bitters; and to the amazement of all who knew her; this medicine completely cured her. Guaranteed cure for torpid liver, kidney disease, biliousness, jaundice, chills and fever, general debility, nervousness and blood poisoning. Best tonic made. Price, 50c at Chas. Rogers, Druggist.

GIVEN UP TO DIE.

B. Spiegel, 1204, N. Virginia St., Evansville, Ind., writes: "For over five years I was troubled with kidney and bladder affections which caused me much trouble and worry. I lost flesh and was all run down, and a year ago had to abandon work entirely. I had three of the best physicians who did me no good and I was practically given up to die. Foley's Kidney Cure was recommended, and the first bottle gave me great relief, and after taking the second bottle, I was entirely cured." T. F. Laurin.

NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Astoria Iron Works will be held at their office on January 10, 1907, at 3 p. m., for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. By order of the board of directors. JOHN FOX, President. F. L. BISHOP, Secretary. Astoria, Oregon, Dec. 20, 1906.

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